

Amendments

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-purpose vessel for use when recovering material from a bottom surface of a body of water, the vessel comprising:

a hull;

a dredge assembly mounted to the hull, the dredge assembly being adapted to recover the material from the bottom surface;

a hopper supported by the hull, the hopper being adapted to receive the material and including a floor, at least a portion of the floor being moveable to permit movement of the material in the hopper; and

a transfer conveyor mounted on the hull and adapted to receive the material from the dredge assembly, the transfer conveyor being shiftable between a first position in which the transfer conveyor receives material from the dredge assembly and is operable to convey the material ~~toward~~ into the hopper, the transfer conveyor further being shiftable to a second position in which the transfer conveyor receives material from the dredge assembly and is operable to convey the material off the vessel.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Amended) A vessel as defined in claim 1, wherein the moveable floor includes a flexible belt mounted on a plurality of rollers.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Amended) A vessel as defined in claim 1, wherein the hopper includes a slat conveyor for moving the material in the hopper.

6. (Previously Amended) A vessel as defined in claim 1, including a distribution conveyor comprising a rotatable belt conveyor, the distribution conveyor moveably mounted to the hull and having a first end and a second end, and further including a discharge conveyor having a portion extending into the hopper and being adapted to discharge the material from the hopper to the distribution conveyor adjacent the first end of the distribution conveyor, the second end of the distribution conveyor being moveable to a desired position to thereby unload the material at a desired location.

7. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 1, wherein the distribution conveyor includes an extendable portion.

8. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 7, wherein the extendable portion is slidably mounted in a housing, and including a rack and pinion assembly mounted to the housing and the extendable portion for extending and retracting the extendable portion.

9. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 6, wherein the distribution conveyor is mounted on a turret assembly.

10. (Previously Amended) A vessel as defined in claim 9, including a rack and pinion arranged to rotate the distribution conveyor on the turret assembly.

11. (Previously Amended) A vessel as defined in claim 1, wherein the transfer conveyor comprises a rotatable belt, and wherein the transfer conveyor is moveably mounted to the hull.

12. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 1, wherein the transfer conveyor is mounted on a turret assembly.

13. (Previously Amended) A vessel as defined in claim 12, including a rack and pinion arranged to rotate the transfer conveyor on the turret assembly.

14. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 1, wherein the hopper is generally rectangular.

15. (Previously Amended) A vessel as defined in claim 1, further including a discharge auger mounted to the hull and having a portion extending into the hopper and arranged to cooperate with the moveable floor to discharge the material from the hopper.

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16. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 1, further including a discharge assembly mounted to the hull and having a portion extending into the hopper, the discharge assembly being adapted to discharge the material from the hopper.

17. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 1, wherein the discharge assembly includes a pair of counter rotating augers, each of the augers including a portion extending into the hopper.

18. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 1, including a propulsion system for moving the hull through the water.

19. ~~(Cancelled)~~

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 18, wherein the propulsion system includes a plurality of positioning jets.

22. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 6, wherein the distribution conveyor includes a moveable counterweight, the counterweight being positionable relative to the distribution conveyor so as to counteract the forces applied to the distribution conveyor by the material.

23. (Previously 4Amended) A multi-purpose vessel for use when recovering material from a bottom surface of a body of water, the vessel comprising:

a hull;

a nonsuction-based dredge assembly mounted to the hull, the dredge assembly being adapted to recover the material from the bottom surface;

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a conveyor system, the conveyor system including a first portion adapted to receive the material from the dredge assembly, a moveable second portion, and a distribution conveyor, the second portion being moveable to a first position in which the second portion is adapted to receive the material from the first portion and to convey the material to a first desired location disposed a first distance away from the hull, the second portion further being moveable to a second position in which the second portion is adapted to convey the material to the distribution conveyor, the distribution conveyor being adapted to convey the material a second distance greater than the first distance away from the hull.

24. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 23, further including a hopper adapted to receive the material, and wherein the second portion is further adapted to convey the material to the hopper.

25. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 24, wherein the hopper includes a moveable floor adapted to move the material in the hopper toward the distribution conveyor, and including an auger assembly having a portion extending into the hopper, the auger assembly being adapted to convey the material from the hopper to the distribution conveyor.

26. (Original) A vessel as defined on claim 25, wherein the moveable floor includes a flexible belt mounted on a plurality of rollers.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 24, and including a hopper adapted to receive the material, and further including an auger assembly positioned to receive the material from at least one of the conveyor second portion and the hopper, the auger assembly being adapted to convey the material to the distribution conveyor.

29. (Original) The vessel as defined in claim 28, wherein the auger assembly is disposed in a housing, the housing including a first feed port positioned to receive material from the conveyor second portion and further including a second feed port positioned to receive material from the hopper.

B₁ 30. (Original) The vessel as defined in claim 28, wherein the auger assembly includes a pair of counter-rotating augers.

31. (Original) The vessel as defined in claim 23, wherein the distribution conveyor includes a moveable counterweight, the counterweight being positionable on the distribution conveyor so as to counteract the forces applied to the distribution conveyor by the material traveling therealong.

32. (Previously Amended) A multi-purpose vessel for use on a body of water, the vessel comprising:

a hull;

a dredge assembly mounted to the hull, the dredge assembly being adapted to recover material from a bottom surface of the body of water;

a hopper supported by the hull, the hopper being adapted to receive the material, the hopper including a floor conveyor routed over a series of rollers, the floor conveyor operable to shift the material from a first part of the hopper to a second part of the hopper; and

a conveyor system, the conveyor system including a first portion adapted to receive the material from the dredge assembly, the conveyor system further including a moveable second portion adapted to receive the material from the first portion and to convey the material along a plurality of desired paths, a first of the desired paths being away from the hull and a second of the desired paths being toward the hopper and

a distribution conveyor, the distribution conveyor arranged to receive the material from a selected one of the floor conveyor or from the conveyor system, the distribution conveyor moveably mounted to the hull and having a first end and a second end, the distribution conveyor defining a third desired path wherein the material may be deposited at a location remote from the hull.

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33. (Original) The vessel as defined in claim 32, wherein the hull includes a docking mechanism adapted to secure an adjacent boat to the hull, and further wherein the first desired path is onto the adjacent boat.

34. (Original) The vessel as defined in claim 32, wherein the distribution assembly includes a distribution conveyor moveably mounted to the hull and having a first end and a second end, the distribution conveyor defining a third desired path wherein the material may be deposited at a location remote from the hull, the distribution assembly further including a moveable counterweight, the counterweight being positionable on the distribution assembly so as to counteract the forces applied to the distribution conveyor by the material traveling along the third desired path.

35. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 34, wherein the distribution conveyor includes an extendable portion.

36. (Original) A vessel as defined in claim 35, wherein the extendable

B₁ portion is slidably mounted in a housing, and including a rack and pinion assembly mounted to the housing and the extendable portion for extending and retracting the extendable portion.

Claims 37-45 (Cancelled)